

B-E-A-R

What Is B-E-A-R?

BEAR is the leading **Business Expansion and Retention** program in Montana!!

The success and growth of businesses and our business community is essential to the prosperity of Stillwater County. **BEAR**'s collaborative community-wide team offers experienced knowledgeable experts that can help you expand your business or refine its operations.

B-E-A-R Goals

Say "Thank You" to existing businesses and build relationships between key business owners/managers and community service providers.

Build a database that is useful in the aggregate to influence local and state policies/procedures/legislation.

Identify specific business red flags and help develop strategies or suggest resources to help businesses overcome obstacles preventing their ability to grow or operate to the best of their ability.

B-E-A-R Process

1. Local businesses apply and are selected to be interviewed as BEAR clients.
2. Trained BEAR volunteers interview business owners to learn about and assess the overall outlook of the business.
ALL INFORMATION IS CONFIDENTIAL!!
3. The BEAR assessment team reviews the interview information and identifies areas of opportunity and/or need. Various resources are recommended for the business.
4. With consent and acknowledgment from the business owner, the appropriate resources will contact the business. Initial resources are provided at **NO COST**.

Resources Available to B-E-A-R Clients

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| " · Revolving Loan Fund for Business | " · Web-site development |
| " · Marketing program development and assistance | " · Linked to MSUB for training |
| " · Business plan development | " · Utility and energy audits |
| " · Scholarships for training | " · Strategic and Succession planning |
| " · Information technology assistance | " · Networking opportunities |
| " · Human resource and personnel management | " · Workforce Development |
| " · Manufacturing consulting | " · Site and Facility Location Assistance |

Stillwater County B-E-A-R Team

(In Cooperation with Big Sky EDA, Beartooth RCD Area, Inc., and Stillwater County)

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